

OrdnanceReports

News updates from around the world



June 30, 2003



This publication is produced by the U.S. Army Ordnance Corps Communications Coordinator. The purpose of this publication is to provide Command Information materiel concerning world events and the U.S. military's role in those events. Ordnance specific events will be covered if appropriate. Direct your correspondence to Ed Starnes at 410-278-2415 (DSN 298-2415), or email edward.starnes@ocs.apg.army.mil.

Support troops prepare for sneak attacks

by Franklin Fisher, Stars and Stripes

TAEGU, South Korea — Army Spc. Shawn McKoy remembers the sobering news that an Army logistics unit moving in convoy was ambushed in Iraq in March.

The unit, the 507th Maintenance Company, was ambushed March 23 near Nasiriyah, with unit members killed or captured.

The news had special bearing on troops like McKoy, with the 595th Maintenance Company.

"Everybody always thinks, 'Oh, this can't happen to me 'cause I'm combat support,' but that made us realize, 'Hey, it can happen,'" McKoy said of the deadly Iraq attack.

The 595th — at K-16 Air Base in Seoul — is part of the 498th Corps Support Battalion, whose companies are similar to the one ambushed in Iraq, the 507th Maintenance Company. Both are combat service support, or CSS, units — mechanics, clerks, drivers, cooks, communications troops and others in a host of logistics jobs.

So McKoy and his fellow troops said they were taking things seriously last week when their battalion practiced what to do if they're ever ambushed in convoy.

Though the exercise was planned before the Iraq war, events there lent it special urgency, said Capt. Peter Boyer, the battalion's operations officer.

"We planned it well in advance of what happened in Iraq with the 507th," Boyer said. "What happened with the 507th just kind of reinforced why we need to do this kind of training."

Boyer said the exercise ran from June 21 to June 25 in mostly wet weather at two training grounds north of the Imjin River: the Dragon Head training area about 10 miles northwest of Camp Garry Owen and the North Carolina Range.

Under the exercise scenario, a group of four Army cargo trucks moves down a dirt road when explosives go off, signaling the start of an enemy ambush that knocks out the lead truck.

The soldiers disembark, draw into battle formation, then mount a



Soldiers of the Army's 498th Corps Support Battalion in South Korea advance on pop-up targets that simulate enemy troops during mock convoy ambush exercise using live ammunition. U.S. Army photo.

counterattack, assaulting the enemy in teams that "bound" forward one at a time, the stationary team laying down covering fire for the team that's dashing forward.

The exercise also afforded them practice in map reading from a moving vehicle, using radios to call in situation reports, and requests for medical and other help. Sergeants took charge of their troops under mock combat conditions and organized and led the counterattack.

"You gotta stress individual movement techniques," Boyer said. "Low crawl, high crawl, three- to five-second buddy rushes, being able to dismount the vehicle and they need to get under cover

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Afghan insurgents attack U.S. troops

by Todd Pitman

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Insurgents attacked U.S. troops in southeastern Afghanistan, sparking a gunbattle in which American helicopters were called in for strikes, the military said Saturday.

Meanwhile, a U.S. Army soldier died Saturday when his vehicle flipped over elsewhere in the southeast of the country, the military said. An investigation was under way to determine the cause of the accident, which occurred near a U.S. base in Orgun in Paktika province.

The gunbattle erupted Friday elsewhere in Paktika province - near a U.S. base in Shkin, a volatile town near the Pakistan border, U.S. military spokesman Col. Rodney Davis said in a statement.

An American patrol near the base came under attack from about 10 insurgents. The troops called in support from helicopter gunships, and the attackers scattered.

The gunbattle was the latest in a series of stepped-up attacks by rebels in Afghanistan over the last several months. The insurgents are believed to be a mix of holdouts from the former Taliban regime, members of the al-Qaida terrorist network and loyalists of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a former prime minister.

On Wednesday, three U.S. special forces soldiers were shot - one later died from his wounds - by attackers near Gardez, another eastern

town.

About 11,500 coalition troops, most of them Americans, are in Afghanistan carrying out operations against the guerrillas. The Taliban government was toppled in a U.S.-led war in 2001.



Soldiers transport Iraqi missiles to a safer place for further testing Friday. AP photo by Bullit Marquez.

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Support troops prepare for sneak attacks continued

quick, they also need to respond or engage enemy targets as soon as possible."

Staff Sgt. Edwin Burgos, a generator mechanic in the company, acted as platoon sergeant for the exercise.

"They knew that once they heard the simulators going off, that they were to dismount and set up a perimeter and that their team leaders



Pfc. Joshua Johnson of Army's 498th Corps Support Battalion gets in position with his weapon during a mock convoy ambush exercise in South Korea. U.S. Army photo.

along with myself would be assigning sectors of fire," Burgos said of his troops. "For myself, it was more of a practical experience of knowing where to position everybody and ensuring that we had proper communication."

Pfc. Ryan Eno is a generator mechanic who learned what to do in a road ambush.

"First thing is, get out of the vehicle and get down on the ground ... get yourself set up and look for ... the enemy and keep your sectors of fire away from your comrades so you don't threaten their lives," Eno said.

"You need to say things loudly so everyone can hear you," he said. "That's especially important when you start bounding ... They need to know where to keep their fire shifted to and away from, and of course making sure to follow what orders are being brought down from the squad leader and the team leader."

"As a CSS unit we're quite vulnerable, just like 507th Maintenance Company was ... and like the 507th, we're out there, we're moving troops, we're a key target just because we're carrying the assets that the infantry and the armor need," Boyer said. "That's who we support. We're less defended and that makes us a good target and our guys, they need to be prepared to fight and defend themselves, especially in convoys."

Iraqi operations net Baath officials, sympathizers

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 30, 2003 – Coalition forces detained thousands of suspected Baath Party members and sympathizers during Operations Desert Scorpion and Sidewinder, Combined Joint Task Force 7 officials said today.

Desert Scorpion, which launched June 15, has resulted in 1,330 individuals being detained to date. Members of the 1st Armored Division and the 4th Infantry Division also confiscated hundreds of weapons and thousands of rounds of ammunition during the operation.

Operation Sidewinder, which is primarily in the 4th Infantry Division's area, began June 29, DoD officials said. Iron Horse division soldiers conducted eight raids on the first day of the operation. They detained 32 people and confiscated a number of weapons. A Baath Party colonel was among those detained, officials said.

CJTF 7 officials said U.S. forces are being aggressive in patrolling and maintaining security throughout the country.

"Whether or not there is a named operation, we remain very aggressive in our patrolling activities," said Marine Maj. Sean Gibson, a CJTF 7 spokesman. "Our goal is to remove Baath Party officials, terrorists and criminal elements who are preventing peace and security in Iraq and slowing rebuilding in the country."

Sidewinder is in the so-called "Sunni Triangle" — Baghdad, Ar

CENTCOM: Missing soldiers' remains recovered

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Two soldiers, assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery Regiment, deployed here from Fort Sill, Okla., who were discovered missing on June 25, have been found dead west of Al Taji on June 28.

The soldiers, Sgt. 1st Class Philippe Gladimir and Private 1st Class Kevin C. Ott, were discovered missing at approximately 11:30 a.m. from their post approximately 40 kilometers north of Baghdad, when they failed to respond to a communications check. Upon arriving on location, a search patrol found no trace of the soldiers, their weapons or their high mobility multi-wheeled vehicle (HMMWV).

A thorough coordinated search was conducted to locate the soldiers. Numerous raids and searches were conducted throughout the area where the soldiers were last seen.

Personal items of the soldiers were found during a house-to-house search at 3 p.m. on June 27. Four individuals were taken into custody. The HMMWV was discovered at 3:30 p.m. June 27 approximately 33 kilometers northwest of Hamamiyat. The weapons have not been found.

A total of 12 Iraqis were detained during the searches for possible involvement in the situation.

The incident is currently under investigation.

Ramadi and Tikrit. The area was a Saddam stronghold and many supporters of the former regime reside there.

On June 28, two soldiers missing since June 25 were found dead. The bodies of Sgt. 1st Class Philippe Gladimir and Pfc. Kevin C. Ott, both of the 3rd Battalion, 18th Field Artillery, were discovered west of Al Taji – about 40 kilometers north of Baghdad.

CJTF 7 officials said their Humvee was discovered via an aerial search. Personal items of the soldiers were found during a house-to-house search on June 27, and four individuals were taken into custody.

A total of 12 Iraqis have been detained as a result of the incident. "All commanders are looking at the situation to see what they can do to improve force-protection matters," Gibson said.



A Palestinian security officer speaks with an Israeli army officer at Netzarim Junction. Israel agreed yesterday to reopen the junction, which serves as north-south route through the Gaza Strip. (AP photo)



Sgt. Donald Tabb of 65th Military Police Company, 503rd Battalion, 16th brigade is being searched after instructing Iraqi police on how to conduct vehicle and personal searches, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, June 25. U.S. Army photo

Study: emergency responders unprepared

by Jennifer C. Kerr

WASHINGTON (AP) - Nearly two years after the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States remains "dangerously unprepared" to handle another catastrophic attack, according to a study by the Council on Foreign Relations.

The government says it already has done some of what the council suggested and is working on other recommendations.

The report said the main problem is that emergency responders on the front lines - police, fire, public health and other officials - are drastically underfinanced and lack the equipment or training they need.

The council, a New York-based private world affairs advocacy organization, recommended spending \$98 billion beyond the \$27 billion it said the federal government planned to spend on first responders over the next five years.

Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the Department of Homeland Security, said Sunday that the conclusion that an additional \$98 billion is needed for first responders is "grossly inflated." He said officials already have implemented or are in the process of putting in effect others of the report's suggestions.

The council's task force was led by former Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., with Jamie Metzl, a former National Security Council and Senate Foreign Relations Committee official, directing the project.

Rudman said the government must take immediate steps to ensure that the nation's emergency officials are prepared to respond to a chemical, biological or radiological attack.

"We are dealing with the possibility of tens of thousands of

casualties. And we must deal with it. This is not a question of, 'Can we?' It's a question of we must," Rudman said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

Metzl, also appearing on NBC, said police chiefs have complained about the lack of protective suits, and health officials do not have the resources they need to analyze basic biological or chemical agents.

There is a real danger," said Metzl.

The report found that, on average, fire departments across the country have only enough radios to equip half the firefighters on a shift and breathing apparatuses for only a third.

The commission included former White House adviser Richard Clarke, former FBI and CIA director William Webster and former military officials, business leaders and Nobel laureates.

The study followed on a similar task force report the council issued last October.



Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge delivers his address Thursday, June 19, 2003, in St. Paul, Minn., at a symposium on the future of homeland security in America. (AP Photo/ Paul Battaglia)



US soldiers on a humvee patrol a street on the outskirts of Baghdad, Iraq while an oil bunker burns in the background Monday June 30, 2003. During the war, Iraqi forces loyal to ousted ruler Saddam Hussein, set fire to several oil bunkers to confuse attacking fighter jets, but many now are started looters or by accidents. (AP Photo/Ali Haider)

All-volunteer force has ‘come of age,’ Chu says

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2003 – After 30 years of existence, America’s all-volunteer force has proven to be a success, DoD’s top personnel official said here June 27.

Yet, when the all-volunteer concept was launched on July 1, 1973, “there were many naysayers who said this wouldn’t work,” David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, noted.

The British had a volunteer military, Chu observed, but it was much smaller force than America’s. Consequently, the U.S. effort “was unknown territory,” he said.

“It’s extraordinary ... how successful” America’s all-volunteer force has become, Chu pointed out, noting the volunteer military is “a much better force” than the old conscripted force.

“People (in uniform) really want to be there,” he emphasized, adding, “They want to do their job.”

As evidence, Chu pointed to U.S. military successes in Afghanistan and Iraq as part of the war against global terrorism.

And similar exemplary American military performance was witnessed in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, he noted.

Chu maintained “that conflict made believers of the few remaining doubters that we had,” regarding the viability of an all-volunteer military.



The success of the all-volunteer force owes much to the patriotism and “best instincts” of American youth who serve, Chu explained.

Such young men and women want “to do

something meaningful, to serve, to contribute, to feel proud about what they’re doing – and I feel that’s what we offer,” he added.

And service members are better treated today, Chu observed, noting that people were handled “as if they were a commodity” during the draft era.

Another factor contributing to the success of today’s volunteer military is better pay, he noted.

“We have to be a bit above average (in military pay) if we’re going to ask young people to accept the hardships and the risks associated with this calling,” Chu emphasized.

DoD is also working on reducing the out-of-pocket expenses for service members’ housing, he added, as well as where troops are assigned and how often.

It’s also important, Chu noted, that service members perform the jobs that they’ve been trained for.

“You can’t stick (a service member into) some other ‘slot,’ hoping a ‘square peg’ will fit into a ‘round hole,’” he explained, noting, “That’s a serious mistake.”

Also, DoD must “be thoughtful” of the concerns of service members with families, Chu observed. A related issue is jobs and careers for spouses, he noted. One remedy, he continued, is concentrating military populations at fewer locations, such as how the Navy

concentrates its military housing around San Diego.

This way, sailors change jobs “but they still live in the San Diego area,” he noted.

Another DoD concern in today’s all-volunteer force, Chu remarked, is whether military families are obtaining a good education for their children, noting, “regrettably that’s not true everywhere” where service members are stationed.

However, he noted DoD is now working with state governors and local officials to find ways to improve the educational experience for children of service members.

Yet, overall, Chu cites the all-volunteer military as a success, noting the system has “come of age.”

Poll after poll, Chu pointed out, shows that Americans greatly respect and appreciate the accomplishments of their all-volunteer military.



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A soldier runs to take position during an early morning raid in Baghdad, Iraq, Monday June 30, 2003. A massive sweep that has already involved more than 20 lightning raids and netted at least 60 suspects in towns across a wide swath of Iraq moved into its second day Monday as US forces try to mop up resistance and stem attacks. (AP Photo/ Saurabh Das)

NATO-led force to assume peacekeeping command in Kabul

by Kevin Dougherty, Stars and Stripes

CASTEAU, Belgium — At a NATO commander's conference this month, British army Gen. Jack Deverell spoke of his staff's role in supporting a peacekeeping force in Afghanistan and how it has "a new spring in its step."

Deverell, the commander-in-chief of Allied Forces Northern Europe, and his staff now have a pair of commanders to work with as the new NATO mission to Afghanistan begins to take shape.

Command of the international peacekeeping contingent in Kabul is slated to pass Aug. 11 from a German-Netherlands unit to a NATO force led by German army Lt. Gen. Goetz Gliemeroth. Canadian army Maj. Gen. Andrew Leslie will serve as deputy commander of what NATO calls the International Stabilization and Assistance Force.

U.S. Marine Gen. James L. Jones, the supreme allied commander Europe, announced the appointments last week.

"We're going in with a clear understanding of what we've been asked to do," Jones told reporters following the commander's

conference.

Gliemeroth and Leslie will lead a force of roughly 5,000, said German Lt. Col. Hartmut Beilmann, a NATO spokesman. The current multinational force numbers about 4,600.

In all, the coalition has roughly 11,500 troops in Afghanistan, most of them U.S. servicemembers based at Bagram airfield.

The main role of the NATO force will be to assist the reconstruction efforts of the Afghan Transitional Authority in such areas as security and training of its national army.

Deverell said at the commander's conference two weeks ago that he wants "to get away from this idea that our influence is defined by lines on the ground." The current international force operates primarily in and around Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Soon after the NATO-led force gets settled, the Afghans' will convene a Loya Jirga, or a grand council, in October. In addition, an election is tentatively scheduled for early next year.



U.S. returns Syrians injured in clash

DAMASCUS, Syria (AP) - The United States has returned five Syrian border guards who were taken by American forces after being wounded during a battle on the Syrian-Iraqi border, a Syrian government spokesman said Monday.

With the handover, Damascus and Washington sought to quietly contain the fallout from an attack that could have further hurt relations already strained over the U.S.-led war and occupation in Iraq.

The battle took place June 18 when U.S. warplanes and ground troops attacked a convoy thought to include fugitive Iraqi leaders fleeing into Syria. The fighting spilled over into Syrian territory, wounding the five, though the circumstances remain unclear.

The five guards were handed over to the Syrian side of the Syrian-Iraqi border and taken to a hospital for further treatment, the government spokesman said Monday, quoted by the official news agency SANA. The report had no further details.

For days, Syrian and U.S. officials had been working out details for handing over the border guards, three of whom were seriously injured in the fighting and were taken to a military hospital in Baghdad. The

other two were treated in western Iraq.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said Sunday that Damascus wanted to avoid escalating tensions with Washington. "This subject has had media attention more than it deserved," he told a press conference.

U.S. officials have been unable to explain the full circumstances of the clash near the desert border post of Abu Kamal, including why houses in a nearby village and the vehicles were struck and who was being targeted.

The U.S. military suspected at the time that officials of Saddam Hussein's deposed regime were trying to escape into Syria. One Iraqi was killed in the attack, U.S. officials said.

The violence threatened to further damage U.S.-Syrian relations.

Syria was a loud opponent of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, while U.S. officials at one stage accused Damascus of harboring fleeing former Iraqi officials and sending weapons to Saddam's forces - claims Syria rejected.

North Korea criticizes U.S., warns U.N.

by Dafna Linzer

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - North Korea sharply criticized the United States Friday in a letter warning the U.N. Security Council to take a neutral stance regarding Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions.

The five-page letter, submitted by North Korean Ambassador Pak Gil Yon, was peppered with fiery language accusing Washington of threatening his country and violating international treaties.

Tensions between North Korea and the rest of the world have escalated in recent months as the communist regime admitted nuclear weapons programs and threatened to sell the technology to others.

The United States, which has dubbed North Korea part of the "axis of evil" along with Iran and Saddam Hussein's Iraq, has proposed the Security Council issue a statement denouncing North Korea's nuclear program.

The letter, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press, called on the Security Council not be influenced by the American position.

"The Security Council has an obligation to judge ... whether or not it would be justifiable for one member state of the United Nations to stifle another member state."

Still, North Korea wants bilateral talks with the United States following by a three-way meeting with the Chinese scheduled for April in Beijing.

The United States agreed earlier this month to move most of the 37,000 American troops in South Korea away from the demilita-

rized zone separating it from North Korea and may ask the Security Council to pass a resolution supporting efforts to intercept shipments of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons materials from North Korea or other countries.

The North Korean ambassador lashed out at both moves, calling the troop redeployment a violation of international law and suggested that the intercepts were designed to pressure Pyongyang.



South Korean soldiers patrol along the wire fence erected to stop infiltration of North Korean soldiers, on Yeonpyeong Island, Thursday, June 26, 2003. About a year ago on June 29 a firefight broke out between two Koreas' navy boats off this island, killing six South Korean sailors. Yeonpyeong Islands is 120 kilometers (75 miles) west of Seoul, South Korea's capital. (AP Photo/ Korea POOL)

African leaders seek U.S. peace force

by Edward Harris

ACCRA, Ghana (AP) - West African leaders have proposed an international force that would include 2,000 U.S. troops to restore peace in Liberia, officials said Monday.

The United States has expressed a willingness for some role in efforts to bring peace to Liberia, though it has made no specific agreement to supply troops.

"We are looking at an international force, and we are looking at the various ways we can support it," the United States' deputy U.N. ambassador, Richard Williamson, said in Accra.

President Bush is scheduled to visit Africa in July and regional leaders are hoping for a commitment of U.S. troops before his arrival

West African leaders, meeting in Ghana, discussed a proposal for a 5,000-strong force to separate rebel forces and those of Liberian President Charles Taylor, international officials said.

Nations in the region would contribute 3,000 troops to the force, with the remainder coming from the United States, the officials said on condition of anonymity.

France, Britain, U.N. diplomats and both sides in Liberia's fighting have pushed for an American role in a peace force for a country that was founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century and was a regional U.S. ally and trade partner during the Cold War.

So far, the United States has only made repeated calls for Liberia's rebels and government to honor a June 17 cease-fire agreement. A State Department spokeswoman, Amanda Batt, said that Washington was ready to participate in monitoring efforts.

Bush is scheduled to visit five African nations in July in a trip meant to show his administration's commitment to Africa, though Liberia is not among the stops.

Fighting between Taylor's forces and the rebels fighting to oust him killed hundreds of trapped civilians in the capital, Monrovia, this month. Rebels have fought for three years to take the capital and unseat Taylor in a war that has displaced more than 1 million Liberians and resulted in widespread abuses against civilians.

Bush has urged Taylor, who has been indicted for war crimes, to resign.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Saturday called for an international peace force and urged an unspecified Security Council member take a lead role - a statement widely assumed to refer to the United States.

"There are lots of expectations that the United States may be prepared to lead this force," Annan said Monday in Geneva. "Of course that is a sovereign decision for them to take but all eyes are on them."

Liberia's rebels also appealed for U.S. involvement.



Government soldiers ride on jeeps in the convoy of Liberian President Charles Taylor as he tours the Liberian capital Monrovia Sunday, June 29, 2003. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

"The Americans can lead the force, and the West Africans can play a supporting role," Charles Bennie, a rebel envoy, said in Accra, Ghana, site of talks that have been suspended since renewed fighting last week shattered the cease-fire.

The rebel official pledged that his side would not target Americans if they got in the middle of another Liberian cease-fire.

"If they get involved they will not face hostilities" from rebels, Bennie said. "I don't know about Taylor's forces - although I don't think his troops will fight Americans."



Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge unveiled the department's new seal, which features an eagle and a shield with images of the land, sea and air during a visit to Selfridge Air National Guard Base in Harrison Township, Mich., Thursday, June 19, 2003. The shield also has 22 stars, one for each agency that was folded into the Department of Homeland Security. (AP Photo/Department of Homeland Security, ho)

DoD officials discuss Asia-Pacific region challenges

by Jim Garamone, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2003 – The United States is looking at changing the “footprint” of American forces around the world. But the Asia-Pacific region remains important and any changes the U.S. makes there does not herald disengagement, said DoD leaders during testimony before a House subcommittee June 26.

Peter Rodman, assistant defense secretary for international security affairs, and Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. Pacific

New Intranet tool to keep NCO-ERs on time

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 27, 2003) - The Army has developed a tool to monitor the timeliness and error rate of Noncommissioned Officer Evaluation Reports once they reach their final stop in Indianapolis.

Out of the 181,809 NCOs on active duty, about 10 percent of their evaluation reports are turned in late and about 3 percent have errors, said Master Sgt. Gary Adams, chief of the NCO Evaluation Branch at EREC. The error rate is actually down from last year, which was 7 percent, Adams said.

A link titled NCO-ER Online Reports at the Web site, www.EREC.army.mil, can be accessed by personnel specialists who are charged with managing soldiers' files and senior leaders with command and control authority.

“The Army’s human resources community has the opportunity to tap into EREC’s data base to track what NCO-ERs have been processed,” Adams said. “They don’t have to call or e-mail us, and wait for us to respond.”

The link is only to be used by persons with proper justification, Adams said. When individuals go to the site they have to request permission, and I won’t approve an individual who just wants to see if his NCO-ER has been processed, he added.

Personal records can be reviewed by going to EREC’s links: Official Military Personnel File Online or Personnel Data Snapshot, Adams said.

Although the link has been operational since late May, Adams said he still receives numerous e-mails from personnel specialists asking him if reports have reached EREC. “I get a lot of requests from individuals who want to go to the site, but they’re not the ones who should be taking advantage of the information,” he said.

The officer corps does not have a similar tracking system because the size of the force is smaller, according to officials at the Officer Evaluation Reports Branch. There are approximately 70,000 officers on active duty, according to Army Demographics Profile.

(PERSCOM’s Tecia Williams contributed information to this report.)

Command, told the representatives of the House Asia-Pacific subcommittee that the United States is capitalizing on the experiences of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom as they implement changes.

“The war on terrorism has introduced a new factor in our national security policy,” Rodman said. “The technological change in the nature of war, which we’ve seen in Iraq, leads the administration to think about new ways of improving our effectiveness and capability as an ally and friend in the region.”

Rodman contrasted situations in Europe and the Pacific, saying the European security model is more established and mature. “But in the Asia-Pacific region, ... we see some more delicate conditions, more fluid geopolitical conditions, changing geopolitical realities,” he said.

“We see China emerging. We see Japan and the Republic of Korea looking at their defense needs in new ways. North Korea, of course, is still a problem. We see the rise of Islamist extremism in Southeast Asia.”

These developments re-emphasize the importance of the American security involvement in Asia. He called the United States presence in the region “a crucial determinant of peace.”

Fargo spoke about operations in the region. He said his command is “keenly focused on the Korean peninsula, where, although I believe the likelihood of war is low, the stakes would be very high if war occurred, and even higher if North Korea continues to pursue a nuclear capability.”

North Korea is the biggest missile proliferator in the world, and the danger is that the country would have no qualms about selling nuclear technology along with its missiles. Fargo said such a prospect would destabilize the situation in Northeast Asia.

“Our greatest fear, of course, is the nexus between terrorists and weapons of mass destruction,” he said. “Armed with these weapons, ‘undeterrable,’ unaccountable enemies could inflict enormous damage without warning. It is this sobering conclusion that demonstrates the need for regional unity on a nuclear-free Korean peninsula and requires multilateral cooperation irreversibly and verifiably in North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.”

Fargo said the global war on terror definitely has a Pacific theater of operations. “Besides our direct efforts against al Qaeda, we’ve been focused on threats like the Abu Sayyaf group in the Philippines and the Jamal Islamia, ... a foreign terrorist organization infecting Southeast Asia,” he said. “Both of these terror groups are linked to al Qaeda.”

Jamal Islamia was implicated in the Bali bombings in Indonesia and uses portions of that country for bases. “We’re focused on the JI and are pleased with the cooperation of our friends in the region,

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‘We don’t need to lose people’ to accidents, DoD personnel chief asserts

by Gerry J. Gilmore, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, June 27, 2003 –Aviation and other types of serious accidents across DoD have gone up and the department’s senior leaders have vowed to do something about it.

“Most accidents are preventable accidents,” David S.C. Chu, the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, declared here in a June 27 interview.

Chu, who’s leading DoD’s accident prevention effort, pointed to Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld’s May 19, 2003, memorandum on the subject.

In his memo, Rumsfeld observed: “World-class organizations do not tolerate preventable accidents. Our accident rates have increased recently, and we need to turn this situation around.”

The secretary then challenged DoD’s military and civilian leaders and rank and file “to reduce the number of mishaps and accident rates by at least 50 percent in the next two years.”

These goals “are achievable,” Rumsfeld continued, “and will directly increase our operational readiness. We owe no less to the men and women who defend our nation.”

Military aviation accidents, Chu observed, have gone up. In fact, a

recent DoD news release noted that 82 personnel died in aviation mishaps in fiscal 2002 – that’s 17 more fatalities than the previous year.

Some accident prevention involves using common sense, Chu observed. For example, he noted, sailors should know it’s an unsafe practice to run across an aircraft carrier’s wet deck.

Chu also pointed out the department’s concern about fatalities and injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents involving military and civilians, on and off duty. Not drinking and driving, and using seat belts, he observed, can greatly reduce deaths and injuries caused from auto crashes.

Military and civilians across DoD should know that the main goal of the accident-reduction campaign is to safeguard lives and prevent injuries, Chu pointed out, instead of focusing on losses of equipment.

People, he asserted, come first.

Mishaps kill and maim DoD’s people, Chu observed, thereby making the prevention of accidents “a serious issue.” Accidents, he continued, also negatively impact military operations through equipment damage and time-consuming investigations.

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DoD officials discuss Asia-Pacific region challenges continued

including investigations by the government of Indonesia to apprehend and bring these terrorists to justice,” Fargo said. “Well over 100 JI members have been arrested or detained to date.”

Last year, Pacific Command helped the Philippine government in their efforts against the Abu Sayyaf Group. “That six- month effort provided a template ... to help the Republic of the Philippines develop a lasting counter-terrorist capability,” Fargo said.

The Balikatan ’02 exercise was a success. He said Philippine army operations killed leaders of the terror group and separated the terrorists from the people. Normal activity has returned to Basilan Island, once a stronghold of the group.

With activities spread over the largest geographical combatant command, DoD is examining changing the footprint of U.S. forces in the region. In Korea, U.S. personnel will draw back from the demilitarized zone for the first time since the armistice in 1953. The number of troops in the country will remain about the same, officials said, but the basing and possibly the mixture might change.

The same thing will take place globally, as DoD officials continue examining the lessons of recent operations and the impact technology has made on warfighting. “But one conclusion is clear from this review, ... which is that a forward military presence still remains

necessary, not only militarily necessary but politically necessary, because we have allies and friends who look to us for our commitment, and forward presence has that political function,” Rodman said.

But U.S. forward presence will modernize, he told the legislators. “It needs to take the fullest advantage of new technologies, new possibilities,” he said. “It needs to be flexible. One reason it needs to be flexible is that we look at the theaters globally. We don’t look at each theater in isolation.”

Rodman said DoD looks at the world “as a theater (of operations) in which we want the flexibility to operate maybe one place, maybe move forces from one place to another.”

DoD will also examine changing the capabilities. “We’re looking at ways to diversify our overseas presence,” he said. “We know that political conditions change. Having a multiplicity of options is smart strategy, politically as well as militarily.”

At its core, the review has the goal of enhancing, improving, upgrading and modernizing the U.S. military presence and its ability to fight wars. “The net result is meant to be a strong commitment to our allies, a more effective ability to fulfill our commitments,” he said.

by Rudi Williams, American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., June 27, 2003 – The quest to account for missing servicemen from the Vietnam, Korean and Cold War and World War II – “is unwavering, untiring and will not fail!” Jerry D. Jennings told the audience during the 34th annual National League of Families conclave here June 27.

The global war against terrorism, including Afghanistan and Iraq, will not diminish the nation’s efforts to account for the missing from past conflicts, said Jennings, deputy assistant secretary of defense for prisoner of war and missing personnel affairs and director of the Defense POW/MIA Office.

He went on to say that missing service members will not be forsaken in order to take care of those in harm’s way today.

To emphasize his comments, Jennings said, in May 2001, President Bush spoke of “a special group of veterans: Americans still missing and unaccounted for from Vietnam, Korea, the Cold War and World War II. They deserve and will have our best efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting and, alive or dead, to return them home to America.”

Moreover, he quoted Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, who echoed the president’s commitment in January: The brave men and women who serve in the war on terror “can do so with the full confidence that if they are captured, become missing or fall in battle, this nation will spare no effort to bring them home. That’s our solemn pledge. However long it takes, whatever it takes, whatever the cost.”

“Our mission of the fullest possible accounting has not and will not

‘We don’t need to lose people’ to accidents, DoD personnel chief asserts continued

A DoD safety council — comprised of senior military and civilian leaders — has been formed, Chu noted. That group, he said, is studying methods, processes and strategies – including the implementation of best business practices — to reduce accident rates across the department in line with meeting the secretary’s goals.

Also, service member and civilian ideas on accident prevention – to include observations about dangerous types of equipment and gear — will be sought out and considered.

The defense secretary’s desire to implement better accident-prevention practices across DoD has been a top goal since he took office, Chu remarked. He noted that he and the secretary want to bring about a sea change in the department’s attitude and culture regarding accident prevention.

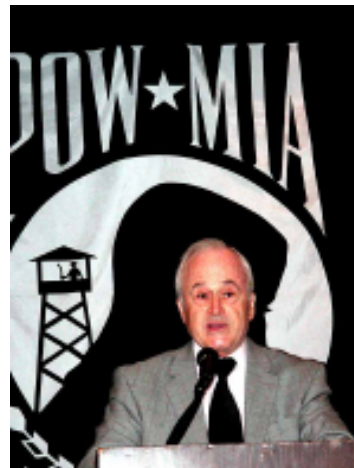
“We don’t need to lose people or to get people hurt ... these accidents are preventable,” Chu emphasized, adding, “our real goal is getting preventable accidents to zero.”

Nation will not forsake missing, not stop seeking fullest accounting

be diminished by combat operations around the world,” Jennings noted.

He told the gathering of mothers, fathers,

sisters, brothers and other loved ones of missing servicemen that Congress has made clear its desire that the mission to account for the missing will not be cut. “In fact,” he said, “much of our field work and resources have actually increased because Congress supports our mission. And they’ve also specified that the manpower and the budget of our agency (DPMO) will not be touched.”



“Our mission of the fullest possible accounting has not and will not be diminished by combat operations around the world,” Jerry D. Jennings told members of the National League of Families during its 34th annual conclave in Arlington, Va., June 26-28. Photo by Rudi Williams.

DPMO has more than 600 men and women of different specialties working every day around the world to account for the more than 88,000 Americans who are missing from all conflicts, the secretary said.

Jennings then asked employees of his office to stand to be recognized, to audience applause. “Their talents and specialties are so varied – research, policy, analysis, personnel recovery, communications, security and so on,” he noted.

He also recognized the lifelong dedication of Ann Mills Griffiths in moving the issue forward on behalf of POW and MIA families. Griffiths is the executive director of National League Families.

Noting that the first-ever DoD-wide personnel accounting conference was held last January, Jennings said that included government briefings and presentations by Griffiths and several veterans organizations representing millions of members.

“In another new initiative, I’ve invited senior policy level representatives from Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia to attend POW/MIA consultations in Bangkok, Thailand, in October,” Jennings told the audience. “We plan to discuss lessons learned from the past, craft strategies to advance the effort in Southeast Asia, and forge together a vision for the future.”

He foresees the countries exchanging ideas, fostering greater cooperation and ultimately contributing to achieving the answers to America’s and families’ questions about missing personnel.

Among other initiatives, DPMO is planning a veteran-to- veteran

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New military Web site online to help diagnose SARS

by Staff Sgt. Michele Hammonds

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, June 27, 2003) — The Armed Forces Institute of Pathology has launched a new Web site designed to address diagnostic issues surrounding the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, better known as SARS.

The new site, www.afip.org/Departments/Pulmonary/SARS/, is designed for physicians as well as the general public to receive an overview of SARS, said Dr. Teri J. Franks, who led the development project. "The SARS Web site follows in the footsteps of AFIP's anthrax Web site," said Franks, associate chair of AFIP's Department of Pulmonary and Mediastinal Pathology.

Frank said his staff created a template that enables AFIP to develop Web sites "on emerging diseases in a timely manner."

The site is also specifically designed to assist radiologists who are often the first asked to diagnose a disease after a clinician sees the patient. Dr. Jeffrey Galvin, chief of AFIP's Division of Pulmonary and Mediastinal Radiology, collaborated with Franks to provide an understanding of the imaging of SARS.

"I felt it was very important for a radiologist to understand what the findings were in SARS because recognition is crucial," Galvin said. "It spreads so rapidly and having a radiologist recognize and raise the possibility of SARS could be the difference between it being contained in the emergency room or spreading throughout the country."

AFIP radiologists and pathologists teamed up with experts from the Department of Telemedicine to create templates for the anthrax and SARS websites.

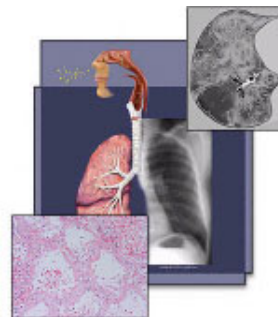
"The new SARS site is even easier to navigate and has the capability

for users to look at slides as well," Galvin said.

Dr. Aletta Ann Frazier, a radiologist and medical illustrator for the Department of Radiologic Pathology, created all of the illustrations on the SARS and anthrax sites.

"I have very visionary doctors who know the value of teaching through illustrations," she said.

Frazier spent several weeks creating many illustrations and overlays for both sites. While some medical illustrators base their drawings from others or medical textbooks, Frazier looks no further than AFIP. Through her work at the Institute she has access to images, photomicrographs and radiology cases within the Department of Radiologic Pathology.



"Medical illustrations fill out the essential information that doctors need to know," Frazier said. "I feel so fortunate that I can carve out this special part of my career because this is just as important to me as the practice of medicine."

Nation will not forsake missing, not stop seeking fullest accounting continued

exchange in Southeast Asia. "American veterans organizations have already offered support for this initiative," he said. "We're appreciative of their willingness to join with us in what we believe will be a very productive initiative."

U.S. efforts to press for greater cooperation continues beyond Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, into Russia and other countries, Jennings noted. For example, he said work with the Russian government to clarify cases of American missing personnel from the Vietnam War continues.

"Though we've not reached the point of dramatic breakthroughs, I'm encouraged by certain recent signals from Moscow indicating a more forthright approach to working with us than previously shown," Jennings said.

For example, he said efforts are underway to allow declassification of some Russian military records from the Vietnam War era. "In recent months, the Russians have provided us with excerpts of classified materials that we're correlating with our own records relating to American loss incidents," Jennings said.

"Unfortunately, as long as nations have disagreements, there will be wars," he said. "We're not finished until the job is done to bring home every American warrior."



An Israeli military tank patrols the area near the entrance to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the Gaza Strip, Monday June 30, 2003. Palestinian groups declared a limited cease-fire with Israel, and Israeli tanks and troops pulled out of a part of the Gaza Strip, boosting chances for a U.S.-backed Mideast peace plan. (AP Photo/Gadi Kabalo)

South Korea Army will pick up some missions

by Robert Burns

WASHINGTON (AP) - Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and his South Korean counterpart agreed Friday to move ahead with the transfer of some military missions from American to South Korean forces.

No final decisions were made, but previous discussions have involved transfer to the South Koreans responsibility for countering North Korean special operations forces. That mission is now carried out by Americans, including Army units with Apache helicopters to monitor the South's coastline.

There also has been a proposal to give South Korea the military meteorology mission done now by U.S. forces.

The United States also wants South Korea to play a bigger role in missile defense.

In talks at the Pentagon, Rumsfeld and South Korean Defense Minister Cho Young-kil also affirmed an agreement reached last month to consolidate U.S. forces farther from the Demilitarized Zone that separates North and South Korea.

It was the defense chiefs' first meeting since December. Rumsfeld is expected to make his first visit to Seoul as defense secretary in October for a celebration marking the 50th anniversary of the U.S.-South Korean military alliance. The Korean War ended 50 years ago in July, and U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps forces have been stationed there ever since.

About 37,000 U.S. forces are posted in South Korea. Rumsfeld is eager to rearrange the forces, in part to get them out of range of North Korean artillery near the DMZ.

The movement of U.S. forces away from the Demilitarized Zone is to happen in two steps. First, U.S. troops north of the Han River will consolidate in the Camp Casey and Camp Red Cloud areas. In the second phase they will move south to the area around Osan Air Base, south of Seoul, and Camp Humphreys, southeast of Osan. The main Air Force unit in South Korea is based at Osan.

The United States and South Korea have not agreed to a timetable for moving the U.S. forces. The South Korean government wants to go slower, in part fearing a sudden move could lead to a flight of international investment capital if markets should perceive it as weakening South Korea's defenses.

In a joint statement issued after their meeting, Rumsfeld and Cho affirmed their goal of an alliance that is "more capable, less intrusive in the lives of ordinary Koreans," and reflective of South Korea's increased economic strength. At the same time, it must also meet the



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, right, escorts South Korea's Minister of Defense Cho Young-gil, through the honor cordon at the Pentagon, Friday, June 27, 2003, in Washington.(AP Photo/Lawrence Jackson)

Bush administration's desire to rearrange U.S. forces worldwide in ways that make them more capable.

Rumsfeld and Cho also affirmed the goal of moving the U.S. 8th Army garrison at Yongsan out of Seoul quickly. No date has been set.

The two men also discussed North Korea and urged the communist government to dismantle its nuclear weapons program verifiably and irreversibly.

They noted with "serious concern" North Korea's recent statements about possessing nuclear weapons and its threats to demonstrate or transfer those weapons. They said they hoped the matter could be resolved peacefully but agreed that diplomacy would have to be backed by military power.

Also attending the meeting on the U.S. side were Adm. Thomas Fargo, commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific; and Army Gen. Leon J. LaPorte, commander of U.S. forces in Korea.

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*Unexploded ordnance in storage, waiting for disposal , in Mosul, Iraq, during Operation Iraqi Freedom, June 22, 2003.
U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Daniel Meacham*

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